DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 462 159 PS 030 091

TITLE	America Goes Back to School: Get Involved! Stay Involved! Information for Families and Community Members.
INSTITUTION	Partnership for Family Involvement in Education (ED), Washington, DC.
PUB DATE	2000-01-01
NOTE	8p.; For Spanish version of brochure, see PS 030 092.
AVAILABLE FROM	ED Pubs, P.O. Box 1398, Jessup, MD 20794-1398. Tel: 877-433-7827 (Toll Free); Tel: 800-872-5327 (Toll Free); Web site: http://www.ed.gov/PFIE.
PUB TYPE	Guides - Non-Classroom (055)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	*Academic Achievement; Children; College Preparation; *Community Involvement; Community Support; Elementary Secondary Education; Family School Relationship; Mathematics; *Parent Participation; Parents as Teachers; Reading; School Community Relationship; *School Support; Sciences

ABSTRACT

This brochure provides several tips for families and for community members to help them encourage student achievement and success. The tips are grouped into three categories: (1) "Help our children read well and independently by the end of third grade"; (2) "Help our children learn to meet high math and science standards and take challenging math and science courses"; and (3) "Help our children start early to prepare for college and careers." The brochure also includes a description of seven good practices for families to encourage their children's academic success, and tips on helping to modernize America's schools for the 21st century. (EV)

Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made
from the original document.

ED 462 159

America Goes Back to School: Get Involved! Stay Involved!

Information for Families And Community Members

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

X This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy

PS 030 091

BEST COPY AVAILABL

Ps

AMERICA GOES BACK TO SCHOOL

Get Involved!
Stay Involved!

PS 030091

AMERICA GOES BACK TO SCHOOL

Get Involved! Stay Involved!

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

7 Good Practices for Families

Make time for your children —those moments talking during evening meals and visiting the library, museum or zoo together make a difference.

Read together. It's the starting point of all learning. Read with your youngsters 30 minutes a day. Share a good book with your teen.

Use TV wisely. Limit viewing to no more than two hours a day.

Stay in regular contact with your child's teachers and principal.

Encourage your children to take challenging courses at school. Check homework every day.

Know where your children are, especially your teens. Support after-school and summer programs. Help connect kids to service opportunities through the schools and youth leadership, community and religious groups.

Talk directly to your children about the values you want them to have and about the dangers of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco. And listen to them, too!

Better education is everybody's business!

For more information about research and tips on family and community involvement in education, call 1-800-USA-LEARN, or visit <www.ed.gov>.

PARTNERSHIP for Family Involvement in Education

TIPS TO . . .

Stay Involved!

Families

Get Involved!

Community Members

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Help our children read well and independently by the end of third grade

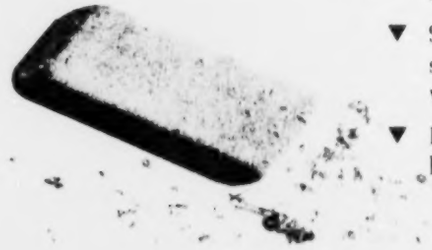
- **Read to, and with, your children for 30 minutes every day. (Use the bookmark attached to this brochure when you read!)**
- Help your children get a library card and check out books.
- Limit the amount and kind of TV your children watch.
- Keep track of your children's progress in school by regularly talking to their teachers and visiting their classrooms.

- Become a reading tutor to a child in your community.
- Volunteer in an after-school or summer reading program. Encourage business and community support for these programs.
- Develop a monthly program at your community center, school or library in which senior citizens and grandparents discuss their lives and experiences. Children can learn from these oral histories.
- Be supportive of school, community, and state efforts to meet high academic reading standards.

Help our children learn to meet high math and science standards and take challenging math and science courses

- **Go over your children's mathematics homework with them.**
- Meet with your children's math teachers to find out what your children are learning and how you can help.
- Do math activities with your child such as counting, measuring, estimating and solving problems.
- Insist that your child study algebra in eighth grade and more advanced math and science through high school, such as chemistry, physics, trigonometry and calculus.

- Talk with students and parents about how you use math in your work and life.
- Become a math tutor to a child in your community.
- Organize a family math night, a math or science club or a job shadowing program to support math learning outside the classroom.
- Support school, community and state efforts to set and meet high math and science standards.



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Help our children start early to prepare for college and careers

- Encourage your children to take challenging courses every year in middle and high school to keep all college and career options open; enroll them in Advanced Placement and tech prep courses in their last few years of high school.
- Start saving now for college—a little bit each month helps. Learn about the Education Individual Retirement Account.
- Learn about scholarships, grants, work-study, tax credits and other options to help families pay for college. Call 1-800-4FED-AID.
- Make sure your child registers for, prepares for and takes the SAT, ACT, and any other entrance exams required by colleges.

- Talk to students about your job and the education needed to be successful in a career.
- Help set up a work-study internship or school-to-career program at your workplace that would let students learn about careers even before they leave high school.
- Encourage your employer to ask to see high school and/or college transcripts before they hire new employees.
- Support local community after-school and summer programs that provide help with homework and college preparation.
- Encourage individual students regularly by helping them set life and college or career goals.

Family and community involvement is the key to better student achievement and success. Whether you have a child in school or not, helping families help their children learn is important. Use the tips in this brochure to get involved and stay involved and help children read better, enroll in challenging mathematics classes, and prepare for college.

How can you help modernize America's schools for the 21st century?

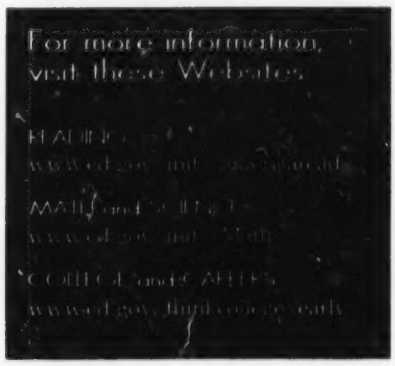
- Support efforts to renovate, modernize and construct schools. Many are overcrowded and have out-of-date classrooms.
- Support proposals to reduce class size in order to give children more individual attention.
- Assist with efforts to give students and teachers access to computers and technology in the classroom.
- Help to make schools violence- and drug-free.

Remember,
better education is
everybody's business!

- Support efforts to keep schools open after regular hours as safe havens to enhance learning through access to computers, arts, music, tutoring, supervised recreation and community service.
- Help schools to establish meaningful standards for what students should be expected to learn.

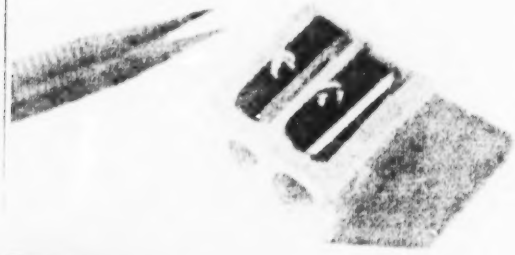
If you'd like more information on these areas or other educational topics of concern to your community, call:

U.S. Department of Education
1-800-USA-LEARN
www.ed.gov



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

PARTNERSHIP
for Family
Involvement
in Education



U.S. Department of Education
Washington, DC 20202-8173

BEST COPY AVAILABLE